Development of primitive tribal groups

263. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain tribal communities who still belong to pre-agricultural level of technology and economic backwardness with declining trend have been identified;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken under the Programme for Development of primitive tribal group to uplift them and bring them in the main stream of the country?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has identified 75 communities among scheduled tribes as Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs), in 17 States and 1 Union Territory, who have declining or stagnant or semi-stagnant population, low level of literacy, pre-argicultural level of technology and subsistence level of economy.

(c) The Ministry has been implementing an exclusive 100% Central Sector Scheme *viz.* "Development of Primitive Tribal Groups" since 1998-99 for overall development of PTGs through State Governments and NGOs. It is a very flexible scheme. Any activity/ work, which is very crucial for the survival, protection and development of PTGs, can be taken up under the scheme. The activities/works may include provisions for housing, land distribution, land development, agricultural development, cattle development, income generation programmes, health-care, infrastructure development, social security, etc. 4.29 lakh PTG families are also covered for death and injury risks under the Janshree Bima Yojana.

Facilities to tribals in Dantewara district

264. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tribals in far off villages in the Dantewara district of Chhattisgarh are denied educational and health care facilities; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) The State Government of Chhattisgarh has reported that such a situation does not exist.

(b) Does not arise.

National Tribal Policy

265. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a National Tribal Policy for social and economic development of tribals;

(b) if so, the essential features of the policy; and

(c) the details as to the distinction between the policy and the recently passed legislation to protect Forest Rights of the tribals?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) Yes. Sir. Ministry of Tribal Affairs has formulated a draft National Tribal Policy, 2007 in order to address the issues concerning tribals *viz.* lower Human Development Index, poor infrastructure, diminishing control over the natural resource base, persistent threats of eviction from their natural habitat, exclusion from mainstream society, inequality in distribution of wealth and opportunities, non-empowerment, and inadequate implementation of Constitutional Provisions, and to ensure their active and informed participation in development. Action has already been initiated for finalization of the draft Policy as per procedure.

(c) The draft National Tribal Policy deals with various issues related to Scheduled Tribes (STs) in a wide and comprehensive manner, and aims to strengthen regulatory protection and empower the tribal communities; to improve tribal human development index through various means of socio-economic empowerment; to encourage and protect tribal traditions, culture and sports; to ensure access to privileges including focus on Development of primitive tribal groups; to conserve and protect the intellecutal property regime of STs etc. The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 recognises and vests forest rights and occuption in forest land in forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in such forests for generations but whose rights could not be recorded.

Identification of tribal district across the country

266. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified certain tribal districts across the country with a view to advance women's literacy;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating those that have been identified in Orissa;

(c) whather Government have initiated various schemes to bring them into the economic and educational mainstream at par with the rest of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PR. KYNDIAH): (a) to (d) The Ministry has been implementing an exclusive 100% Central Sector Scheme *viz.* "Educational Complex in Low Pockets for Development of Women's Literacy in Tribal Areas" for the improvement of literacy among Scheduled Tribe girls through Non-Governmental Organizations/autonomous socieites of the State Government. Under the scheme, the Government had identified 134 districts in the country having literacy rate among Scheduled Tribe women less than 10% as per 1991 census, as low literacy districts in 11 States. This includes 10 districts of Orissa *viz.* Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Baleshwar, Cuttack, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput and Ganjam. During 11th Plan period, action has been taken to revise the scheme and re-identify the districts on the basis of ST population and ST female literacy as per 2001 census.

Under this scheme, the Ministry provides financial assistance @ Rs. 9000/- per ST girl per annum for free schooling, boarding and lodging, uniforms, books, food, etc. Besides this, the organization running the educational complex is also required to impart